

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NICOSI 00493 221641Z  
ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05 ACDA-12 COME-00 EB-08 FAA-00  
DOTE-00 CTME-00 USSS-00 /122 W  
-----117697 230206Z /64

R 221615Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7309  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USNMR SHAPE BEL  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NICOSIA 0493

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC  
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD  
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CY, EG  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE IDENTITIES AND NATIONALITIES OF TWO DETAINED  
TERRORISTS  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NICOSI 00493 221641Z

REF: NICOSIA 486 (DTG 211830Z FEB 78)

1. TWO TERRORISTS RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING OF  
YUSSUF AL SEBAI AND SUBSEQUENT HIJACKING OF CYPRUS  
AIRWAYS AIRCRAFT WERE CHARGED BY GOC OFFICIALS WITH  
PREMEDITATED MURDER FEB 20 AND ARE SCHEDULED TO

APPEAR FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING FEB 27. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY GOC AS SAMIR MOHAMED KHADAR, 28, OF JORDAN AND ZAYET HUSSEIN AHMED AL ALI, 26, OF KUWAIT. THEY HAVE ELECTED TO SERVE AS THEIR OWN DEFENSE COUNSEL.

2. THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS AS TO THE TRUE IDENTITIES AND NATIONALITIES OF THE TWO TERRORISTS. AN ARAB UN OFFICIAL WHO BY COINCIDENCE WAS AMONG THE INITIAL GROUP OF HOSTAGES HELD AT THE HILTON HOTEL, REPORTS THAT HE POSTIVELY IDENTIFIED TWO GUNMEN AS KUWAITI AND PALESTINIAN BY THEIR ACCENTS. EARLIER PRESS REPORTS IDENTIFIED THE TWO VARIOUSLY AS KUWAITI, IRAQI, ETHIOPIAN, ERITREAN, AND JORDANIAN.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS PRESS REPORTS ALSO ON POSSIBLE AFFILIATION OF TWO TERRORISTS; PLO REPORTEDLY HAS CHARGED THEY ARE MEMBERS OF ABU NIDAL, BLACK SEPTEMBER, OR IRAQI SECRET SERVICE. OTHER REPORTS, EMANATING PRIMARILY FROM EGYPT, STATE THEY ARE MEMBERS OF REJECTIONIST FRONT. TERRORISTS THEMSELVES ISSUED STATEMENT RELEASED BY GOC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE FEB 20, THAT "THEIR ACTION IS COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF ANY KNOW OR UNKNOWN ORGANIZATION AND THAT THEY OWE NO ALLEGIANCE TO ANY SUCH ORGANIZATION." IN FEB 21 PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU SAID INVESTIGATION WAS CONTINUING TO DETERMINE WHETHER KILLERS BELONGED TO ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 00493 221641Z

ORGANIZATION.  
CRAWFORD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, TERRORISTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014